

Holdrege for being included on Norm Crampton's latest edition of the, 100 Best Small Towns in America. It is a copy of a book, I'll leave on my desk and if you want to come around and look at it sometime in the next couple of days I would be glad to have you do that. Holdrege was selected 38th out of the 100 towns on his list. It was the only town in Nebraska selected, but he prefaced his remarks by saying, "Holdrege was very representative of a lot of communities in the State of Nebraska with that population range." The criteria he used to judge the 100 best small towns in the nation were, they had to be a population from five to fifteen thousand and not a part of an urban area. The things he judged were the annual growth rate of a community and population, the per capita income, the local bank deposits, the proportion of residents in the 25-34 age group, the crime rate of the community, the number of physicians, the public school expenditures per pupil, and the percentage of population with bachelor's degrees. In light of the time I am not going to speak much longer on the issue, but, the fact that Holdrege is in a strong agricultural area with a great natural resource of water, it has a tremendous industry and, of course, the leading industry is Becton Dickinson. In Holdrege we produce more disposable hypodermic syringes for insulin patients than any plant in the world. The plant employs over 600 people. The community has just voluntarily raised over \$2 million to build an 800-seat performing art center, we have outstanding health care facilities, and we have a strong religious base with many strong churches. And, Holdrege survived the blizzard of 1996. And a lot of interesting stories, and if you would like to hear some of them, the city council will relate that to you. Thank you and I hope you will consider this resolution favorably.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam Chair. It has been my honor and privilege in the past to serve Phelps County and the Holdrege Community as a kind of a foster or step-senator during the interim when we redistricted. I want to say that I have always had strong support from them and I certainly commend Senator Schrock and thank him for the opportunity to cosign, cosponsor this resolution honoring Holdrege for the things that they have done and being well deserved to be listed in this particular fashion and recognized nationally as a very active, very strong small town that is very typical of the rest of the